

FAQs About Baptism

1. What if I (the parents) have not received all of my Sacraments? Can I still have my child baptized?

A. Yes, as long as there is a well-founded hope that the faith will be nourished and sustained through regular Mass attendance and living the Catholic Faith. We encourage you to prepare and attend the classes necessary for the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation.

2. What if my marriage is not recognized by the Church? Can I still have my child baptized?

A. Yes, and we can help you work through this situation so as to have your marriage validated by the Church so that the grace of Holy Matrimony may help you and your family. Please make this known to the priest.

3. What if I have a good Christian friend, not Catholic, can they be a godparent?

A. While they cannot be a godparent, they can be a "Christian Witness." As the role of the godparent is to assist the parents in raising the child Catholic, it is imperative that godparents are Catholic. Only one Christian witness is allowed and must be the opposite sex of the other godparent.

4. What if my spouse is not Catholic? Can we still have our child baptized?

A. Yes, at least one parent must be baptized Catholic.



What Must I Do To Have My Child Baptized?

1. Attend the Baptismal Preparation Class. Watch the bulletin for upcoming classes, or call the office.

*Godparents must also attend a session.

2. After attending class, please contact the office to schedule a date. Most Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday/Sundays, but may be celebrated during the week.

3. Before the day of baptism call the office, or go to website: (www.stmarymagdaleneflint.org) and download form. Bring to the office before scheduled Baptism. Your child's certificate will be mailed to you within a few weeks.

4. Be at the Church ten minutes before the scheduled time.

Do not bring your child dressed in white. That custom gives the impression that we are in such a hurry to get out of the Church that we cannot give a little time to dress our newly baptized child. If the white garment is really a sign of a new life, then it needs to be put on after the baptism has been administered.

Please take the white garment out of its plastic wrapping before Mass begins

5. If you are not a member of Saint Mary Magdalene

Parish, you are expected to make donation of \$ 100 to the church.

If you cannot afford to make a donation, your child can still be baptized.

It is considered a courtesy to give a gift to the priest or deacon

For questions and more information on Baptism, please contact Parish Office:

(903) 894-7647 Fax (903) 894-7739

Email general@stmarymagdaleneflint.org

WELCOME TO

ST.MARY MAGDALENE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

With great joy

the people of God here

at St. Mary Magdalene

open our arms to receive

you and your child..



The Holy Sacrament

of

Baptism

celebration

Church teaching about Baptism:

When we are baptized, we become Christians. We are able to call ourselves sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus. We become incorporated into the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Jesus Himself tells us that unless we are baptized by water and the Holy Spirit, we cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven. (John 3:5)

Sacraments are beautiful outward signs of an even more wonderful inner reality, the reality that God loves us. In the ancient Church, of which we Catholics are the core, the seven sacraments provide us with joyful reminders that we are never alone as we seek to be close to God. Through our seven sacraments, Jesus enters into our lives, opening us up more and more to the love, which His Father has for us.

1. Baptism is the first moment of Grace, a beautiful moment when Jesus introduces Himself to us, takes us by the hand and leads us to God the Father. It is by this closeness/relationship with Jesus in His Church that we come closest to God.

2. The sacrament of baptism forgives all our sins. Even when we are only small children or babies, the inheritance of the thousands of years of sin in the human race is also wiped away. That inheritance of original sin is very real in us humans and it needs to be healed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Baptism makes us members of the Catholic Church. There is no such thing as an unbaptized Catholic.

4. Baptism is once and for ever. The graces of baptism can be rejected by our deliberate sinful decisions. But even then, our sins are not powerful enough to undo the work of God in us. Sin does not take away a Christian's identity as a child of God. Sin can make you a bad Catholic, but it can never take away the fact that you are always a Catholic. For that reason, there is no such thing as an ex-Catholic.

The Sacrament of Baptism is ordinarily celebrated by a deacon, priest, or bishop. In cases of emergency, anyone can baptize. The essential rite of Baptism consists in the pouring of water over the head of the person three times or immersing the person three times in water while pronouncing the words "N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

The person is also anointed with the oils of Sacred Chrism and Catechumens so as to anoint them as children of God. Oil also represents healing from sin and strength against evil to always remain in the state of grace.



"Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte "a new creature," an adopted son of God, who has become a "partaker of the divine nature," member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit." - CCC 1265

Choosing a Godparent.

The role of godparent is one that the Church takes very seriously. Godparents serve a special role in assisting the parents in forming the person in the Catholic Faith.

In order to do this well, parents need to find fully initiated practicing Catholics to serve the role of godparent. For Baptism, the child only needs one, but may have two godparents, which must be one male and one female.

The godparent assumes the role of being a Catholic model of virtuous living according to the teachings and precepts of the Church. Godparents must also attend the Baptism Preparation classes.

In order to serve as a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation, a person must meet the following requirements established by Canon 874:

- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- If married, be married according to the laws of the Church. (marriage recognized by the Church)
- Be active in the practice of the faith and receiving the sacraments regularly.
- Not be the father or mother of the one being baptized